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of the
Industry

Air Conditioning & REFRIGERATION



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STANDARD COMPRESSOR GROUP DISBANDS; NEW ASSOCIATION SET UP WITHIN REMA

The Standard Refrigeration Compressor Association has been disbanded, it was learned last week, and machine manufacturers who are members of Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers Association (Rema) have formed a Refrigeration Condensing Unit Manufacturers Association as a division of Rema.

This new association was formed by the following manufacturers:

Brunner Mfg. Co.; Curtis Refrigerating Machine Division of Curtis Mfg. Co.; Lynch Mfg. Corp.; Mills Industries, Inc.; Servel, Inc.; Tecumseh Products Co.; Williams Oil-O-Matic Heating Corp.

B. J. Scholl of Brunner was elected chairman of the group, Sterling F. Smith of Mills was named vice chairman, and H. C. Morrison of Curtis was elected treasurer.

Other machine manufacturers who are members of Rema—Copeland, General Electric, Westinghouse, and York—who were not at the organizational meeting of the new group, will make individual decisions as to whether or not they will participate in this group activity within Rema, it was stated.

The Refrigeration Condensing Unit Manufacturers Association is planning to carry on an engineering activity, a sales survey program in cooperation with jobbers and refrigeration service engineers, an export activity, and will offer its assistance to the government in connection with the war effort and will cooperate with the government, if called upon, to assist in the disposal of surplus stocks.

It is planned to gather monthly sales statistics, which it is believed will assist in showing the trend back to civilian production. A public relations committee will also be appointed.

RECONVERSION PLANNING PROCEEDS, BUT NEW PRODUCTS MAY BE LONG TIME COMING

Government officials continued their moves on planning for reconversion during the past week, but warnings were reiterated "not to expect too much too soon."

As a case in point, the WPB release setting up more stringent requirements for release of the remaining household mechanical refrigerators from the stockpile said that—

"Chief hope for the general public so far as new mechanical refrigerators are concerned lies in the expectation that within 12 months after V-E day some mechanical refrigerators should be reaching the market."

Both industry and government sources discussed further the "equal opportunity" policy for automobile manufacturers (and by analogy, to apply to other manufacturers of durable goods such as appliances).

Under the "equal opportunity" policy a manufacturer would not be prohibited from re-entering the civilian product field because his contracts after V-E Day were still pretty heavy. The test would be whether he could shift enough war contracts to free facilities for civilian production.

The government agencies indicated that they would help in making such shifts in contracts as would be necessary as to help the manufacturers get an "even start" on civilian production.

REMAINING HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS TO GO FOR MOST ESSENTIAL PURPOSES ONLY

Because the stockpile of new household mechanical refrigerators is down to about 38,000 units, purchase certificates for units this spring and summer will be granted only for the most essential military and public health needs, WPB has declared.

It has become necessary now to deny, among other things, applications for new mechanical refrigerators for war housing projects for the Army, Navy, United States Maritime Commission, and the National Housing Agency, including Federal Public Housing Authority projects and privately financed housing projects of the FHA.

Conditions under which consideration will be given to written applications (on Form WPB-882) for one or more of the remaining 38,000 new household mechanical refrigerators for the Army, Navy, Maritime Commission, Foreign Economic Administration, and the Office of Civilian Requirements, were outlined by WPB as follows:

For military, governmental, professional, institutional, or industrial use in the storage of vaccines, serums and biologicals; for research and testing laboratories developing critical materials or products to be used directly in connection with the war program; for certain food storage and preservation purposes in hospitals, in child care centers, and in connection with school milk programs where non-mechanical ice chests or ice boxes will not fulfill all the requirements; for the Army and Navy of the United States; and for other essential military purposes.

WPB TO GIVE DIRECT ASSISTANCE IN DEFERMENTS FOR EXPERIENCED REPAIRMEN

The War Production Board is officially informing its regional offices to assist in the deferment of refrigeration repairmen, both over and under 30 years of age, in such cases where the need for repairmen is critical, the National Refrigeration Service Council was told this week.

The Council, with the aid of officials of the General Industrial Equipment Division of WPB, had put the case of the rapidly growing scarcity of trained repairmen before WPB, with the result that official word is being sent out to regional offices.

It is understood that WPB will assist in deferring up to 500 men. It is up to individual employers, or Local Refrigeration Councils, to seek out the help of the WPB regional offices in individual cases of repairmen who have been reclassified out of an essential status.

The Council is attempting to obtain further recognition of the problem in National Selective Service Headquarters in Washington.

QUIGAN BELIEVED TO HAVE OBTAINED CONTROL OF FEDDERS MFG. CO.

Control of the Fedders Mfg. Co. here is believed to have passed into the hands of Frank J. Quigan, a Long Island manufacturer, who recently concluded negotiations for purchase of large blocks of the company's common stock.

The company's offices said negotiations have been concluded under which Mr. Quigan purchased 56,204 common shares of Fedders and has been granted an option to purchase 12,398 additional shares. Prices paid for the stock were not made known.

These holdings were purchased from President Theodore C. Fedders, other members of the Fedders family and Executive Vice President Warren E. Detenbeck.

These holdings, alone, do not represent control of the company, there being 240,000 shares outstanding, including those held in the treasury. Mr. Quigan, however, has been purchasing stock in the open market and it is understood he now has 51% of the stock.

There has been no indication of what this change in control may mean with respect to manufacturing policies. Mr. Quigan is expected to come to Buffalo April 16 for the annual stockholders' meeting, at which time future plans and policies may be revealed.

GOVERNMENT EXPECTS 500,000 ELECTRIC IRONS TO BE PRODUCED IN SECOND QUARTER

Despite continuing tightness of materials and manpower, production of electric irons is expected to approximate 500,000 in the second quarter of 1945, WPB officials said at the recent meeting of the Domestic Electric Appliance Industry Advisory Committee meeting.

The 65% cut in the total amount of steel available for allotment to electric-iron manufacturers in the second quarter, as compared with the first quarter, is not expected by WPB to affect second-quarter iron production, since many manufacturers have partially fabricated steel on hand. WPB allotted enough material for the production of more than 2,000,000 electric irons in 1944, and more than half of this material is still available since manufacturers were unable to complete more than about 800,000 irons because of the tightness of the labor market in areas in which many of the principal manufacturers are located.

WPB expects to allot sufficient aluminum and copper to augment the amounts held by manufacturers to permit production of the half-million irons in the second quarter. The supply of resistance wire also is expected to be adequate for this production, WPB officials said.

The supply of plastics is so limited that WPB expects to be able to make them available to iron manufacturers only for dial knobs. Committee members emphasized the need for plastics for this purpose, since a suitable substitute has not yet been developed.

INVESTIGATION MAY BE ASKED ON 'CAVE' STORAGE SYSTEM IN KANSAS

Senator Hugh B. Mitchell (Dem.), Washington, said that information gathered at closed hearing in Kansas City "warrants a complete investigation of the Government's cold storage facility" near Atchison, Kan.

Senator Mitchell, accompanied by lawyers, committee investigators, and representatives of the Army and Navy, came here to look into charges that the project is "no good," "is costing too much," and "is not suitable for food storage."

Complaints reportedly pertained to feasibility of the location of the underground refrigerator, transportation, cost, and administration.

LOCKER PLANT INSURANCE CHARGES DO NOT VIOLATE PRICE CEILINGS, COURT HOLDS

Charges for insurance of locker contents may be added to the locker rental if the operator so decides without violating ceiling price regulations, the OPA has decreed in dismissing a case brought against A. L. Butler of the A. L. Butler Co. here.

A locker patron had sued for "triple damages" under OPA regulations because the operator added locker insurance charges to the rental, although prior to March, 1942, patrons did not have to make this payment. The patron contended that this additional charge constituted a violation of ceiling price laws.

M.A.D. RE-OPENS BROOKLYN JOBBING HOUSE

Melchior, Armstrong, Dessau Co., jobber of refrigeration, air conditioning, and heating supplies, has re-opened its Brooklyn branch at 208 Flatbush Ave., announces K. L. Brandt, sales manager.

The company also expects to re-open its branch in Newark, N. J., in the near future, Mr. Brandt says.

FANS WILL CONTINUE TO GO TO THE MILITARY ONLY

Approximately 100% of the steel, aluminum, and copper needed to make 25,000 propeller-type electric fans will be available in the second quarter of 1945 for allotment to manufacturers, but allotments will be made only to the extent that manpower and facilities are available.

Under present conditions, no new electric fans will be available for home or office use in 1945, officials emphasized. All the fans to be authorized for production under the approved quarterly program are needed for essential military, hospital, and industrial purposes. Seventy-two per cent of total 1944 authorized fan production went for direct military use, WPB representatives reported.

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A.S.R.E. OFFICIALLY CANCELS SPRING MEETING

Annual spring meeting of the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers, originally scheduled for Milwaukee, June 11-13, has been canceled by action of the Society's executive committee. Cancellation was made in cooperation with the ODT's current order that conventions be curtailed.

The A.S.R.E. Council will meet June 11 and 12 at the Hotel Gibson in Cincinnati to transact the necessary business of the Society.

The technical program for the spring meeting will be carried through, with papers prepared as in former years, these papers to be published in the Society's journal.

CHANGE IS MADE IN WPB FORM 541

WPB has "streamlined" Form WPB-541, the general purpose application form for priority assistance. The new form comprises two pages instead of four as previously.

This application blank, which is used whenever a special priorities form is not prescribed by an order or regulation, is one of the most widely used in WPB. Formerly known as PD-1A, this form is used in the majority of cases by anybody who does not have a priority rating and needs one.

With the new style form, WPB will initiate the policy of keeping the original application and returning a duplicate for the applicant's records. Although the new forms have been distributed to all field offices, no definite cut-off day for the old form has been set. For the present WPB offices will continue to accept and process applications on the old forms.

COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXPANDS ITS ACTIVITIES

The Committee for Economic Development has formed a business publications action and advisory committee headed by John H. Van Deventer, president and editorial director of *Iron Age*, which includes among its members George F. Taubeneck, editor and publisher of *AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION NEWS*, announces Paul G. Hoffman, C.E.D. chairman.

"Recognizing the importance of the business press in stimulating planning now for high level, productive postwar employment, we have set up this committee to serve publications which cover every field of commerce, industry, and the service trades," declared Mr. Hoffman.

BOOM PREDICTED FOR REFRIGERATED MOTOR TRANSPORT POSTWAR

A. K. Tice, vice president in charge of sales, Fruehauf Trailer Co., predicts a tremendous increase in the transportation of refrigerated food over the highway.

"Only the war holds back a vastly increased production of refrigerated truck-trailers capable of transporting meat, frozen foods, fish, and other perishables," he says. "Ingenious new refrigeration devices which maintain a constant temperature in the vehicle in all climates and under all weather conditions will spur this demand."

BIG EXPANSION PREDICTED IN APPLIANCE MARKET IN SOUTHERN RURAL AREAS

Southern electrical appliance firms will have a billion-dollar postwar market if plans of the REA cooperatives are carried out as now proposed, it was predicted by Acting Administrator William J. Neal of the Rural Electrification Administration before the Memphis Agricultural Club.

"In no other section is the picture so bright in this respect, or the need so great," Mr. Neal declared. "Development of this great rural potential business will require some departure from trade practices common before the war, especially in retailing and installation phases. But the business is there for those who go after it in serious fashion."

Asserting that there can be no question about the eagerness of rural people to have electricity, Mr. Neal said the latest estimates show 2,161,901 farms in 14 Southern states—from the Potomac and Ohio rivers to the plains of Texas—still without power.